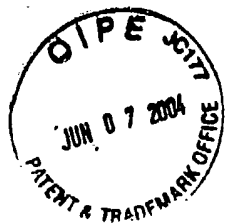


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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
GROUP 1714**

Attorney Docket :
032301 WN 225

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:) **Confirmation No. 7113**

)
Jurgen Meyer, et al.)

)
Serial No.: 09/982,006) **Group Art Unit: 1714**

)
Filed : October 19, 2001) **Examiner: P. Niland**

For : **FUNCTIONALIZED SILICAS**

OK to enter. PN 6/17/04

AFTER-FINAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2004 is due by August 18, 2004.

Therefore, please accept this Amendment as timely filed.

For the purpose of placing the above-captioned application in immediate condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better form for appeal, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2004, kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows.